

LIBRARY

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLEFORD

ANNUAL REPORT



Sanitary, Cleansing and Transport Department.

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1942.

Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing and Transport Superintendent:
T.E.BIRTWISLE, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A., M.I.P.C.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLEFORD

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector
Year ended 31st. December, 1942

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I beg to place before you my thirtieth Annual Report being a report on the Sanitary circumstances of the area, and the activities of the Department under my control.

Despite the exigencies arising out of war conditions, the Department has continued to function for the benefit of the community we serve.

We have carried on throughout the year without the services of our fourth Sanitary Inspector being available; I refer to Mr.J.Rooke who is serving as a Sub-Lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm.

The claims of Civil Defence upon the Department have been fully recognised and the organization of personnel in the various services has been continued.

Housing.

The execution of building and repair work became increasingly difficult owing to shortage of labour and material.

Particulars of action are given below:-

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of Local Authority or their officers..... 24
(This does not include drainage, &c., works.)

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....2
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners.....2
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..Nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 11, Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation.....Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 1
- (3)(a) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 1
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses converted to business premises..... 1
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners:-
 - (a) To render houses fit for human habitation.....Nil
 - (b) As to usage other than human habitation.....Nil

The following is a summary of the action taken under the Housing Acts, 1930-36, and the position at the 31st. March, 1943:-

Part I of the Act. Clearance Areas -

No. of unfit dwelling-houses demolished.....68
No. of persons displaced.....243

Part II of the Act. Individual Unfit Houses -

No. of dwelling-houses demolished:
Formal action.....103
Informal Action..... 32
No. of dwelling-houses closed..... 27
Parts of buildings closed..... 7
No. of persons displaced from above.....630
No. of houses made fit:
Formal action.....154
Informal action.....946

Moveable Dwellings.

The following special report was submitted to the Council.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Sub-Committee of the Rating and Valuation Committee, I beg to report on the position with regard to moveable dwellings in relation to Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Section is of considerable length, and while some-what complicated, contains provisions which confer wide powers upon Local Authorities.

The Section is additional to Section 53 of the Act dealing with buildings of short lived materials, and Section 344 which refers to temporary buildings; it also covers dwellings which are not buildings within the meaning of either of these two sections.

The powers of a Local Authority include the granting of:-

1. Licences to allow land to be occupied as sites for moveable dwellings.
2. Licences to erect or station and use such dwellings,

and they may attach conditions to any licence in respect of:-

Number and classes of such dwellings which may be kept on the land, water supply, sanitary conditions, free space between dwellings and their removal at the end of a specified period.

Generally, land should not be occupied for camping purposes, on more than 42 consecutive days, or more than 60 days in 12 consecutive months, unless a licence has been obtained from the Local Authority.

The Section does not apply to a moveable dwelling which:-

- (a) is kept on land occupied by the owner in connection with his dwelling-house, and is used for habitation by him only,
- (b) or by members of his household; or is kept by its owner on agricultural land and used only at seasons by persons employed in farming operations; or
- (c) which belongs to the proprietor of a travelling circus, roundabout, amusement fair, stall, or store, and which is regularly used by him in the course of travelling for the purpose of his business; or
- (d) which is not in use for human habitation and is kept on premises where there are no other occupied moveable dwellings.

The Minister of Health may grant a certificate of exemption

to an organization in respect of camping sites where these are properly managed, where no nuisance exists and the sites are kept in good sanitary condition. A certificate so granted has the effect of a licence. The usual penalties are applicable in the event of contravention.

By Sub-Section (8(1) the expression "moveable dwelling" includes any tent, any van or other conveyance whether on wheels or not, and, subject hereinafter provided, any shed or similar structure, being a tent, conveyance or structure, which is used either regularly or at certain seasons only, or intermittently, for human habitation.

Provided that it does not include a structure to which the building byelaws of the local authority apply.

With a view to obtaining reliable information a survey as to local conditions has been made, from which it would appear that there are 81 structures in the district at the present time, coming within the definition of "moveable dwellings". They comprise caravans on wheels capable of being and intended to be moved, vans with or without wheels to which in many cases some forms of "annexe" has been provided, thus making the structure more or less a fixture, tram cars and railway coaches on brick or sleeper foundations, and to which some addition has usually been made, others are of the Army Hut type, while the remainder can be described as roughly constructed wooden sheds.

In some cases, the dwellings appear to be clean and fairly comfortable, with well kept garden ground adjoining; in a number of cases however the structure can be described as a mere apology for a dwelling.

Many of the dwellings have town's water laid on, while others obtain water from near-by houses.

In the Carr Wood area, and part of Gillatt's Quarry, water is obtained from wells, which are open to suspicion; the tenants have been advised to boil all water before using.

Closet accommodation is usually of the pail type, although in a few cases water closets are provided.

The dwellings are chiefly occupied by aged couples or single persons; it was observed that a number of elderly men living alone appeared to appreciate this type of dwelling, with an opportunity of cultivating the garden adjoining.

There can be no doubt that many of these "moveable dwellings" have been erected or stationed in their present position many years ago, and without regard to byelaws. Others, particularly in the Love Lane and Aketon Road areas have been approved as temporary dwellings under the provisions of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1907.

It would appear that the application of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of licences would in many cases afford a remedy for the conditions now obtaining, while in others, powers of demolition under the Housing Act could well be applied.

Under present housing conditions however, and the difficulty of erecting new houses in war time, it is suggested that the application of these powers at the present time would entail considerable hardship. Action is desirable however, when building operations are again practicable.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Particulars as to milk purveyors and producers, dairies, etc., are given below:-

No. of Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk on the register.....	4
No. of Retail Purveyors of Milk on the register.....	48
Total number of cowsheds in the District.....	5
Total number of Milk Cows.....	110
Total number of Dairy and Cowshed inspections.....	46
No. of "Accredited" Producers.....	Nil

There were two licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1936 and 41, to sell milk as pasteurised, one of which was a supplementary licence.

Pasteurisation Plant.

Difficulty arose at the Castleford Co-operative Society's Dairy with reference to the pasteurising plant, owing to shortage of labour together with delay in obtaining material required to complete the extensions and alterations, put in hand during the previous year.

The matter was taken up strongly by the Department with the firm responsible for the contract, on behalf of the Society, having regard to the importance of their product as an article of food. The pasteurising apparatus was duly completed and continues to give satisfaction.

For the purpose of bacteriological examination, 25 samples of milk were taken, 14 of which were ordinary milk, 10 of pasteurised milk and 1 of sterilised milk. The results of examination are given below:-

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

No. of samples taken of Ordinary milk.....	14
No. of samples which satisfied the Methylene Blue test for Accredited milk.....	6
No. of samples taken of Pasteurised milk.....	10
No. which satisfied the Plate Count Test.....	7
No. of samples taken of Sterilised milk.....	1
No. of which were satisfactory.....	1

The above samples were further subjected to a biological test, and the following results were obtained:-

Ordinary milk found to be Tuberculous.....	1
Pasteurised milk found to be Tuberculous.....	1

In the case of the sample of ordinary milk found tuberculous, this was traced back to the herd on a farm within the district. The herd was examined by the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, and one cow was slaughtered; the herd was afterwards certified to be non-tuberculous.

Following up of the pasteurised tuberculous sample presented some difficulty in that a large number of farms were complicated. Arrangements were made with the County Laboratory for systematic sampling, identifying milk, as far as possible, with the farm concerned. Eventually one of the samples so taken and submitted to biological test was traced back to the particular farm, and at the instance of the Veterinary Inspector one cow was slaughtered.

This herd was afterwards certified to be non-tuberculous.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Sampling.

Total number of samples taken:

Informal..... 9

Formal..... 51

Total..... 60

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Informal	4		
Milk. Formal	18	Cordials	3
Butter	4	Custard Powder	2
Margarine	4	Fish Paste	2
Lard	4	Baking Powder	1
Sugar	3	Cocoa	1
Tea	3	Vinegar	1
Flour	3	Yorkshire Pudding	
Mussels (Informal)	5	Mixture	2

Formal Samples

The following were found to be adulterated:-

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
268	Milk	277	Milk
269	Milk	278	Milk
276	Milk	285	Cordial

After consultation with the Public Analyst, it was found inadvisable to prosecute in the above mentioned cases of adulteration.

Regarding No.285, the article was afterwards withdrawn from sale.

Informal Samples.

Four out of the five samples of mussels taken were found to be adulterated (Pollution). The mussels affected were surrendered and destroyed.

The 4 samples of milk taken informally were of pasteurised milk. Further samples taken were satisfactory and are reported upon under 'Milk Supply'.

Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughtering was continued at the Government controlled slaughter-house, and inspection of all animals and carcasses carried out by a qualified member of the staff.

The number of slaughtermen licenced was 14.

Figures relating to meat inspection are given below.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excl'g Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	1237	346	145	4966	118
No. inspected	1237	346	145	4966	118
All diseases except Tuberculosis.	1	2	Nil	4	1
Whole carcasses condemned.					

Carcases inspected and condemned. (cont'd)

	Cattle Excl'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	24	Nil	6	2
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	9	21	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	85	90	1	Nil	3

Other foodstuffs surrendered as being unfit for human consumption included the following:-

Beef	887 lbs	Peas	44 tins
Pork	545 lbs	Fruit	97 tins
Bacon & Ham	388 lbs	Mussels	1 cwt
Yeast	392 lbs	Fish	40 tins
Sausages	188 lbs	Butter	21 lbs
Cheese	80 lbs	Carrots	19 tins
Cake & Biscuits	143 lbs	Prunes	56 lbs
Flour	42 cwts	Jam	11 lbs
Milk	(710 tins 224 lbs)	Rabbits	(56 15 tins)
Onions	152 bags	Steak	35 tins
Eggs	1830	Meat Roll	16 tins
Beans	110 tins		

Food found to be unfit for human consumption was removed and converted for use in industrial processes.

Water Supply.

The results of sampling are shewn below.

Public Supply				
No.	Date	Sample taken at	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water.	PH. value
29	20.7.42	Report Centre	None	7.6

The following samples were taken from wells, springs and rivers as part of an investigation carried out in respect of emergency supplies.

No.	Date	Sample taken at	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water.	Remarks
1.	17.2.42	Water Fryston	1	Satisfactory
2.	26.2.42	do.	14	do.
3.	26.2.42	do.	7	do.
4.	26.2.42	do.	3	do.
5.	30.3.42	Savile Road	180 plus	Unsatisfactory
6.	30.3.42	Eastfield Lane	None	Satisfactory
7.	30.3.42	Glebe Street	2	do.
8.	30.3.42	Smawthorne Lane	None	do.
9.	30.3.42	Market	5	do.
10.	30.3.42	Eastfield Lane	50	Unsatisfactory
11.	30.3.42	Eastfield Lane	3	Satisfactory
12.	30.3.42	Leeds Road	10	Satisfactory
13.	20.4.42	Jaggers Farm	160	Unsatisfactory
14.	20.4.42	Whitwood Mere	None	Satisfactory
15.	20.4.42	Savile Road	14	do.

No.	Date	Sample taken at	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water.	Remarks
16.	20.4.42	Lock Lane	1	Satisfactory
17.	27.4.42	Holywell Farm	17	do.
18.	27.4.42	Manor Farm	35	do.
19.	27.4.42	Briggs Colliery	10	do.
20.	27.4.42	Fryston Colliery	180 plus	Unsatisfactory
21.	4.5.42	Churchfields	35	Satisfactory
22.	4.5.42	Veetworth	None	do.
23.	4.5.42	Eastfield Lane	13	do.
24.	4.5.42	Lock Lane	2	do.
25.	29.6.42	Gillatt's Quarry	180 plus	Unsatisfactory
26.	29.6.42	Wheldale Farm	160	do.
27.	29.6.42	Woodman	7	Satisfactory
28.	10.7.42	Gillatt's Quarry	180 plus	Unsatisfactory
31.	19.10.42	Wheldale Farm	1	Satisfactory
32.	19.10.42	Fryston	90	Unsatisfactory
33.	19.10.42	Cutsyke	180 plus	do.

One sample taken from one of the above mentioned wells was submitted for chemical analysis and gave the following result:-

Grains per gallon.

Total solids	80.00
Chlorine	3.50
Nitrites	None
Nitrates	1.475
Free Ammonia	.0112
Albumenoid Ammonia	.0077
Lead	None
Hardness	43.00
pH. Value	7.0

Water samples Nos. 25 and 28 were taken from a well at Redhill Quarry, which served several bungalows and temporary dwellings.

Statutory action was taken to secure discontinuance of the use of this well and provision of a proper piped supply. The notice was duly complied with.

Public Swimming Baths

No.	Date	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water.	pH. value	Free chlorine
30.	20.7.42	None	5.2	None

Factories Act, 1937

Various alterations were called for at factories with reference to means of escape in case of fire.

In one case it was deemed desirable to consult the Factory Department on the question of whether a case existed for enforcement of requirements; the works have since been carried out.

The number of certificates issued was three.

River Pollution.

Action was taken with reference to river pollution caused by the accidental overflowing of a tank at a tar distillery works. Suitable intercepting and filtering arrangements were subsequently provided with a view to preventing a recurrence. The officers of the West Riding Rivers Board collaborated with the Department in this case.

252.40.7/43.S.I.

Air Pollution.

Sootfall.

The total sootfall for the year as shewn by the analysis of deposit passing through our soot gauges was found to be as follows:-

Cambridge Street	-	321.44 tons per sq. mile.
Redhill	-	210.167 tons per sq. mile.

Sulphur Estimation.

Town Hall	-	4.027 milligrammes of SO ₃ per day.
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Maternity Home	2.697	do.	do.
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The evil of congestion of dwelling-houses on space is shewn by the sootfall at Redhill being only 2/3rds that of the sootfall in Cambridge Street.

The high sulphur estimation is to be expected in conjunction with the heavy sootfall, and the processes carried on at various manufactories in the district.

The Ministry of Mines (Fuel and Power) was approached in connection with the acquisition of material required for the provision of mechanical stoking apparatus, where smoke nuisance occurred. The Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Food were asked to support the application for licence in this regard.

Disinfection and Defestation.

Disinfection after infectious disease was done by the usual spraying and fumigation.

The furniture and effects of 10 families were subjected to fumigation before removal to Council owned houses. Fumigation in respect of vermin was done at 40 houses.

Arrangements are in operation at the Depot for the defestation of bedding and clothing of persons treated under the Scabies Order; the clothing, etc. is collected from the Clinics in bins, and defestation is done by steam.

At the request of the Housing Committee, 99 houses were examined for the presence of vermin, before change of tenancy was effected.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sanitary Alterations.

Works carried out during the year 1942 are summarised below:-

Privies abolished (redundant)Nil
Privies converted into water closets.....	2
Slop closets converted into water closets.	4
Water closets abolished.....	2
Water closets (additional) provided to existing buildings.....	5
Drains and water closets reconstructed or repaired.....	73
Drains, water closets, etc., opened or cleansed.....	312
Ashpits (wet) abolished.....	2
Ashpits (dry) abolished.....	Nil
Ashbins provided in substitution for ashpits.....	2
Chemical closets (new).....	Nil
Ashbins provided to new buildings.....	Nil
Ashbins abolished.....	1

Statement of Sanitary Defects or Nuisances found and Results of Action:-

Total number of inspections for nuisances..1275

Defects or nuisances found.....	561	(premises)
Number carried over from 1941.....	166	
Number abated during 1942.....	490	
Number outstanding end of 1942.....	237	
Notices issued:		
Informal notices	184	Complied with 178
Statutory notices	2	do. do. 2

Petroleum Storage.

There were issued during the year 48 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium; the quantity allowed to be stored under licence was 463,175 gallons of petroleum spirit and 3,218 lbs of carbide of calcium.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Strict attention was again paid to the necessity for repression of rats and mice.

The arrangement made last year to share with the Pontefract Corporation the full time services of a competent rat-catcher has produced excellent results.

Supervision has been given to all premises likely to form harbourage for this class of vermin, and particular attention was given to farms during threshing operations.

Particulars as to baiting and destruction are given below.

No. of premises or districts visited	198
No. of baits laid	3842
No. of rats known to have been destroyed.	628

Public Cleansing, Transport and Salvage.

All figures given under this heading have reference to the year ended 31st. March, 1943.

Prominence was given throughout the year to the national demand for salvage of all re-usable material to meet the ever growing need of munitions of war.

Notwithstanding the necessarily increased cost to the service involved in augmenting our efforts in this direction, priority was given over all other claims to those of national salvage; and this in order that we might not be found wanting in our response to the call for raw material to provide for the needs of our fighting forces.

In September, a special "Book Drive" of four days was organized with a "Mile of Books" as the objective. The drive was very successful and the final result shewed that over 1½ miles of books had been received, yielding a weight of over 10 tons.

This was followed by a "Scrap Metal Drive" with a particular request for non-ferrous metals. The whole area was canvassed for all forms of metal, but the results were disappointing.

The system of food waste collection was greatly extended, and communal bins were made available at many points throughout the district. At the end of the year, some 480 bins had been distributed for this purpose. The collection of material from these bins has called for the full time use of a vehicle.

While the food waste has been highly appreciated by pig and poultry keepers, the amount made available to us by householders ought to have been much greater.

It is much to be regretted that our people as a whole have not yet realized their responsibilities in this matter of national salvage.

Large quantities of waste paper are still deposited in dust-bins, and have to be recovered at the tips, with consequent heavy costs in labour.

Voluntary assistance which is readily given in many districts, is not forthcoming in this area, due possibly in some measure to local circumstances.

The following table shews the weight of different materials collected or received, and the amount which, on the estimate of the Ministry of Supply, should be contributed by our population.

Class of Material.	Amount Collected.		Amount which the Ministry of Supply estimate should be contributed by our population	
	Tons	Cwts	Tons	Cwts
Paper	314	6	504	0
Ferrous Metal	113	19	(252	0
Non-Ferrous Metal	5	13	(
Textiles	39	14		
Bottles & Jars	36	2		
Cullet	74	14		
Rubber	11	3		
Bones	6	12	25	4
Food-waste	174	3	504	0
Miscellaneous		7		

During the year the removal of unnecessary railings was undertaken by the Ministry of Works in which assistance was rendered by the officers of this Department.

The Healdfield Quarry was continued in use/a refuse disposal tip; it is expected that the filling will be completed within a period of two years.

Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collected during the year was as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts
Ashbins and ashpits	18625	15
Shop Refuse	910	15
Cesspools	2437	10
Total	21974	0

The refuse was received and disposed of partly at the Destructor but mainly at the tips as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts
At tips	21063	5
At Destructor	1735	12
Total	22798	17

Some 836 tons were recovered for the purpose of national salvage. The total cost was £11598. 10. 10d.

Street Cleansing.

Street Sweeping and Gulley Cleansing.

The cost of the work under this head during the present year amounted to £6185. 10. 3d. Of this the West Riding County Council contributed the sum of £417. 11. 9d, in respect of work performed on County Roads.

Street Gritting and Snow Removal.

Winter conditions proved less severe than those for several years past. The cost of gritting was £678. 5. 5d, and of snow removal £316. 12. 9d, of which the County Council refunded £249. 18. 5d and £128. 9. 8d respectively.

236.40.7/43.S.I.

Transport Work.

Work done by lorries.

Hours worked 30,782 Loads hauled 25,793
giving an estimated tonnage of 32,619 tons, and an estimated mileage of 76,699. During the period, 13,421 gallons of petrol and 3,489 pints of oil were consumed.

Motor Vans.

During the year the old Dodge van was replaced by a Ford 10 cwt, and the work done during the year was as follows:-

Hours worked 791 Journeys made 1,636
giving an estimated mileage of 5,493. During the period 408 gallons of petrol and 140 pints of oil were consumed.

Gulley Emptiers.

Work done by these two vehicles was as follows:-

Hours worked 3,789½ Gullies cleansed 20,116
Other material removed 5,564 tons 17 cwts. Estimated mileage 7,080
During the period 1,523 gallons of petrol and 724 pints of oil were consumed.

The total expenditure for all transport, including overhead charges and running costs was £7,276. 2. 4d, with an income of £844. 9. 10d, leaving a net expenditure of £6,431. 12. 6d. This does not include the drivers wages. The net expenditure was charged out proportionately to the various services of the Council.

Motor Ambulance Service.

No. of Calls	2585
Miles travelled	24,819
Total costs for year.	£720. 10. 9d
Less income	<u>98. 7. 9d</u>
	£622. 3. 0d
Add for Standing Charges, proportion of rates, taxes, lighting, &c.	<u>£40. 0. 0d</u>
	<u>£662. 3. 0d</u>

The cost per mile was 6.4d

Public Conveniences.

The expenditure and income were as follows:-

Gross expenditure.	
(Wages, repairs, &c.)	£629. 3. 2d
Income	<u>£165. 12. 3d</u>
Net expenditure	<u>£463. 10. 11d</u>

All the public urinals in the town were cleansed twice daily at the least.

Civil Defence.

During the year, the following services have been maintained by the Department:-

General Decontamination, Food Decontamination,
Transport and Ambulance.

General Decontamination.

The men employed in the Cleansing Service continue to form the mainstay of our operations, and have again shewn great willingness in undergoing training in the work. Training has been systematically carried on throughout the year. Changes in personnel have been more numerous than heretofore, but the service is well up to strength. The County Scheme gives the area an allocation of five squads, with a unit strength of 35 men; the allowance for reserves gives an establishment strength of 50. Such numbers of trained men are available

Food Decontamination.

Every endeavour has been made to maintain this branch of the Service. The number of persons trained in this work is still approximately 20, both male and female, but further enrolments are required. It is anticipated that additional personnel will shortly be directed to the Service by the Ministry of Labour.

The condition of the food treatment sites has been maintained, and training of personnel has been carried on throughout the year.

Transport and Ambulance.

The augmented service has been well maintained during the year. The only notable change was the abolition of the Basic Petrol Ration for private cars, which necessitated re-grouping of cars available for first aid parties and for sitting casualties.

Conclusion.

Throughout the year the staff of the Department, together with the Civil Defence personnel rendered loyal assistance, and I desire to record my appreciation of their services.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

T.E.BIRT ISLE.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Cleansing and Transport Superintendent.

234 .40.7/43.S.I.

Sanitary Department,
Town Hall,
Castleford.
28th. July, 1943.